

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It seems to be more of a monopoly on censorship by those who own the broadcasting companies, run by stockholders, those in government, who give them regulations in their favor, perhaps "returning a favor".

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. In an age of mass distribution of sound bytes and video clips from a central location, (almost like "Big Brother" in 1984), information that is distributed to the masses from one place, ignoring one's own backyard. The political process is more corrupt than ever. I will boycott all TV from now on if this is shown and continues.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.